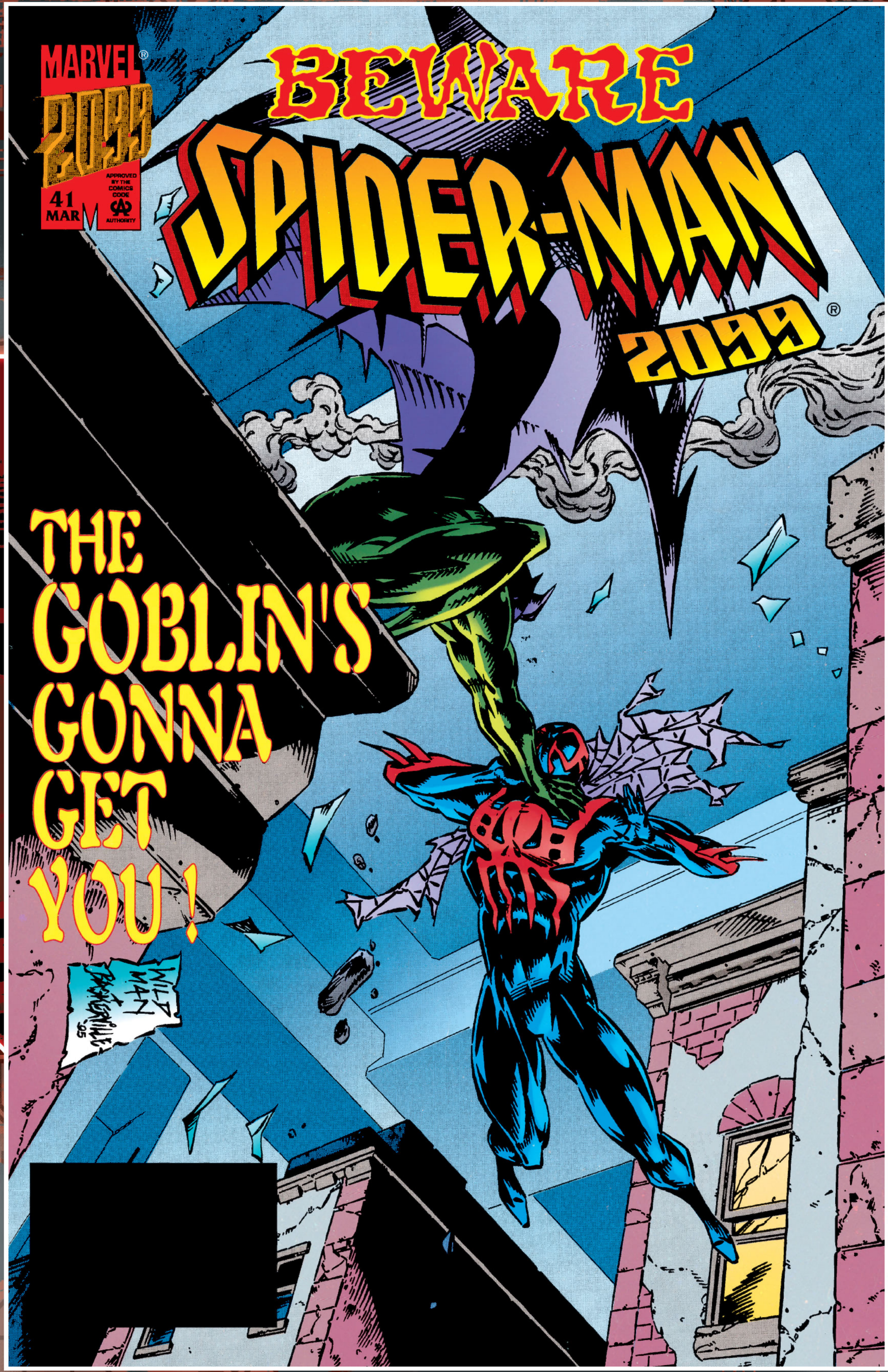
MARVEL
2099
41
MAR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BEWARE
SPIDER-MAN
2099
THE GOBLIN'S GONNA GET YOU!
MIKE WIERINGO '95

IT WAS ONE OF THESE THINGS WHERE YOU HEAR ABOUT IT... SEE NEWS FOOTAGE OF IT...

BUT SOMEHOW, THE FULL MAGNITUDE OF THE EVENTS DOESN'T REALLY HIT YOU UNTIL YOU SEE IT FIRST-HAND.

OKAY, MR. O'HARA. WE'RE ALL CLEAR.

AND NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I THINK OF THE SHELLEY POEM FROM ALMOST TWO CENTURIES AGO. THE ONE ABOUT A TRAVELLER WHO LEARNS ABOUT A BROKEN, RUINED STATUE IN A DESERT.

THE RUINS ARE THE ONLY REMAINS OF SOME GREAT CONQUEROR, POWERFUL IN HIS TIME... AND SINCE FORGOTTEN.

AND THE ONLY CLUE TO THE STATUE'S IDENTITY, OR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MAN WHO CARVED IT, WAS AN INSCRIPTION WHICH READ...

"MY NAME IS OZYMANDIAS, KING OF KINGS:

"LOOK ON MY WORKS, YE MIGHTY, AND --

MR. O'HARA... IF YOU DON'T MIND MY *ASKING*...

WHAT'S THE *POINT* OF THIS? THE WHITE HOUSE IS OBVIOUSLY RUBBLE. DOOM IS *GONE*.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO COME *OUT* HERE FOR?

DESPAIR

PETER DAVID, WRITER
ANDREW WILDMAN, PENCILER
STEPHEN BASKERVILLE, INKER
KEN LOPEZ, LETTERER
MEGAN MCDOWELL, COLORIST
MALIBU SEPARATIONS
JOEY CAVALIERI, EDITOR
BOBBIE CHASE, CHIEF
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

CLOSURE, BENZELLI.

I CAME HERE FOR CLOSURE.

I LOSE TRACK OF HOW LONG I RUMMAGE AROUND.

AND THEN I FIND IT... EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS SEARCHING FOR IT.

CRACKED, BUT STILL READABLE.

FIGURES. CAN'T EVEN GET RID OF HIS NAMEPLATE, MUCH LESS HIM.

SO WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR, SIR?

NOTHING.

WELL, LIKE THEY SAY, SIR... IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NOTHING, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN TO STOP LOOKING?

WHEN YOU'VE FOUND NOTHING.

SIR! I... WE WEREN'T...

...EXPECTING YOU, SIR.

GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, SIR.

SO IF WE RUN A SECOND SET OF...

ONE SIDE, PLEASE...

WELL, WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO'S HERE.

YOU NEVER LOOKED BETTER, DAD.

IS THAT MY SON? OR IS IT SOME SORT OF REPLICA?

THE NEWS FOOTAGE INDICATED VENOM HAD NO INTERNAL STRUCTURE.

THUS THE HOST ACQUIRES THE TRAITS OF THE SYMBIOTE.

THIS ISN'T UNPRECEDENTED. IN THE SYMBIOTE'S FIRST KNOWN INCARNATION, THE HOST ACQUIRED AN OUTSIZED JAW, TONGUE...

UHM... YES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS YOUR SON, KRON.

JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION.

GOOD. KILL HIM.

WE BELIEVE THE SYMBIOTE DOESN'T JUST COVER ITS HOST.

IT INFESTS IT TO A MOLECULAR LEVEL.

YOU COLD-BLOODED CREEP! YOU SON OF A--

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

DOCTOR, THIS...THING... HAS NO LEGAL STATUS.

KRON STONE WAS DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD. THIS IS JUST A LAB ANIMAL.

WE PUT DOWN LAB ANIMALS ALL THE TIME.

HAVE HIM DISPOSED OF, PERMANENTLY.

MR. STONE, YOU... YOU CAN'T JUST ORDER HIS EXECUTION, QUESTIONABLE LEGAL STATUS OR NO. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE. MIGUEL O'HARA IS.

UNTIL I'M FORMALLY APPRISED OF A CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT, I CANNOT CARRY OUT THIS ORDER. I'M SORRY.

ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SORRY.

FINE. I'LL CLEAR IT WITH MIKE.

AND I WOULDN'T BE TOO DEFIANT IF I WERE YOU, DOCTOR.

BY DAY'S END, I'LL BE IN CHARGE.

SO BEST TO STAY ON MY GOOD SIDE.

IT'S BIZARRE TO BE MOVING AROUND IN PUBLIC, NOT HAVING TO WATCH OVER MY SHOULDER...NOT TRYING TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE PUBLIC EYE.

WHAT'S... THAT?

I... DON'T BELIEVE IT. THORITES... BURNING ME IN EFFIGY!

I BECAME SPIDER-MAN OUT OF SELF-DEFENSE... KEPT UP WITH IT OUT OF ANGER...

...AND NOW IT'S BECOME...WHAT? A GUILTY PLEASURE?

NO!

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THAT COSTUME!

HE'S BURNING ALIVE!!

FWZZZZ

GOT THE FIRE OUT... BUT NOW PEOPLE ARE BOUNCING PROP HAMMERS OFF MY HEAD.

HAS THE WHOLE CITY GONE NUTS?

WORD'S OUT ABOUT YOU! CORPORATE TOOL!

TRAITOR!

I PUT MY BUTT ON THE LINE FOR YOU PEOPLE!

WHEN THE CORPS OPPRESSED YOU I FOUGHT ON YOUR SIDE!

AND NOW YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE! TRAITOR!

THIS IS NUTS! I THOUGHT THORITES WERE PEACEFUL! WORSHIPFUL!

THINGS CHANGE, S-MAN!

GET HIM!!

GET ME?

GET REAL! GET--

WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE...

OF COURSE! HOW COULD I NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU BEFORE?!

BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD, PERHAPS?

I'M NOT BUZZARD BAIT THAT EASILY!

BACK OFF, VULTURE!

WITH PLEASURE! THIS PLACE WAS GETTING DULL ANYWAY!

LET'S GO!

OKAY... C'MON, FELLA. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

FLYBOY! CALL THE MEDS, NOW!!

THEY SAID... YOU'RE A FRAUD... THAT...

...that you'd gone CORP... say it's not TRUE...

IT'S... IT'S HIM! THE THORITE FROM MY FIRST NIGHT...

AND LATER HE THREW HIMSELF OFF A BUILDING... ALMOST DIED...

PLEASE say it's not true...

GUY LOOKS LIKE A GONER TO ME. MEDCORPS WOULD BE WASTING MONEY IF Y'ASK M--

I... I KNEW it... knew you'd never...

Wait'll I tell... LOREEN...

AW NO. NO, NOT YOU, TOO... NOT...

I... I never even knew your NAME...

DOWNTOWN...

THEY'D TOLD ME YOU'D COME BACK. THIS IS... WHAT? YOUR 10TH VISIT? 11TH?

I HADN'T BEEN COUNTING.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, JENNIFER? FACE ME.

LORD. WHAT HAPPENED? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

A POOR, DESPERATE SOUL. IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE FORGIVEN HIM.

I SAID IT DOESN'T MATTER. NOW RESPECT THAT.

PERHAPS I WON'T.

WHY DO YOU KEEP COMING HERE, PROPHET?

YES VERY MUCH.

FOR A MAN WITH AMNESIA, YOU'VE BECOME VERY WELL INFORMED.

AND I FIND THAT I...

I MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND. IN FACT, YOU'D BEEN GONE SO LONG, I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU WOULDN'T BE BACK.

AND HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

DON'T YOU ENJOY OUR TIME TOGETHER? OUR LONG CHATS?

I PRAYED THAT WASN'T THE CASE.

I'M ... ATTENDING MY SISTER'S FUNERAL TODAY... AND I'M ALL TORN UP INSIDE. THERE'S SO MUCH I WANTED TO SAY TO HER...

I GRIEVE FOR YOU. IT'S TRAGIC, WAITING TO DO SOMETHING UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

I DEAL WITH THE DREGS DOWN HERE... THE LOST SOULS... ALL I KNOW IS MISERY. I FEEL LIKE, IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING LIFE-AFFIRMING...

MY SOUL WILL JUST... JUST SHRIVEL AND DIE.

I KNOW MATTERS HAVE CHANGED IN YOUR CHURCH... OBVIOUSLY, "FATHER." HOW MUCH... HAVE THEY CHANGED?

THAT MUCH.

GABRIEL O'HARA'S APARTMENT.

STUPID TIE.

STUPID TWENCEN RELIC.

STUPID... STUPID...

STUPID TIE!!!

SEVEN YEARS BAD LUCK, GABRI. AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE *ENOUGH* PROBLEMS.

SHALL I BANDAGE THE *HAND* FIRST, OR FIX THE *TIE*?

YOU DECIDE, MA. EVERY DECISION *I'VE* MADE LATELY, I SCREWED UP.

SIGH

WELL, LET'S DO THE *HAND* FIRST. NO SENSE GETTING *BLOOD* ON A PERFECTLY GOOD TIE.

MIGUEL? TYLER STONE IS AT THE DOOR.

THAT'S NO SURPRISE. THE HOSPITAL *SAID* HE'D CHECKED HIMSELF OUT.

LET HIM *IN*. AND *THANKS* FOR THE TIE ASSIST.

HELLO, MIKE. YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.

HELLO, TYLER. YOU LOOK LIKE *CRAP*.

I WONDERED IF YOU NEEDED A LIFT TO DANA'S FUNERAL.

NO, THANKS.

YOU SEEN *KRON*?

YES. YES I *HAVE*.

I'VE ORDERED HIM *KILLED*.

W-WHAT?

HE'S AN *ANIMAL*, MIKE. NO ONE KNOWS IT BETTER THAN I. I'D THINK YOU'D *APPLAUD* MY DECISION.

WHY? YOU THINK IT SOMEHOW EASES DANA'S SOUL? HE...

HE'S YOUR *SON*, TYLER!

EXACTLY. WHO *BETTER* TO TAKE HIS LIFE THAN THE ONE WHO GAVE IT TO HIM?

THINK OF IT AS TAKING *RESPONSIBILITY* FOR ONE'S *MISTAKES*.

SPEAKING OF RESPONSIBILITY...

I'LL BE ASSUMING THE REINS OF ALCHEMAX ONCE MORE, EFFECTIVE *TOMORROW*. PLEASE REMOVE YOUR THINGS FROM MY OFFICE.

GLAD TO GIVE IT *BACK*. AFTER ALL...

I WOULDN'T WANT TO RISK TURNING INTO *YOU*.

MIKE...I KNOW YOU WON'T *BELIEVE* THIS, BUT I *DID* LOVE DANA.

THERE WAS A SWEETNESS AND JOY IN HER THAT *TOUCHED* ME.

I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO THINK OF ME AS A ONE-NOTE BAD GUY, BUT THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS...SHE MADE ME *HAPPY*.

WHEN ONE HAS BEEN *UN*HAPPY AS LONG AS *I*, ONE DOESN'T TOSS THAT *AWAY*. ONE...

...UH... DOESN'T...

WHERE'S THE *VIOLIN* MUSIC COMING FROM?

I THOUGHT IT WAS *APPROPRIATE*. IF YOU'D LIKE, I ALSO KNOW "TURKEY IN THE STRAW."

I *HATE* THAT HOLOGRAM.

MY SISTER WAS A *WONDERFUL* SOUL... AND I ENVY THE LORD FOR HAVING HER TO *HIMSELF* NOW...

...AND I HOPE THAT SHE WILL MAKE *HIM* AS HAPPY AS SHE MADE *US*.

I'VE... I'VE BEEN TALKING FOR A *WHILE*, I KNOW. I FEEL AS IF... WHEN I *STOP* TALKING... I'LL HAVE CUT SOME FINAL STRING BETWEEN US. I'M... AFRAID TO LET *GO* OF HER.

MARCH 2 2061

DIED
AUGUST 23 2099

DANA D'ANGELO
BORN
JULY 12, 2076
DIED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2099

JOE BLOGGS
BORN

BUT THAT *WON'T* HAPPEN. BECAUSE AS THE LORD KEEPS HER WITH *HIM*, HE'LL ALSO KEEP HER WITH *US*. HER BODY MAY BE ASHES... BUT HER *SOUL* WILL LIVE WITHIN ME.

WHEN WE WERE *LITTLE*... WE HAD THIS FAVORITE BOOK, WITH A MOTHER SAYING TO HER CHILD: "I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER, I'LL LIKE YOU FOR ALWAYS...

"AS LONG AS I'M LIVING, MY BABY YOU'LL BE." MOM READ THAT TO US *SO MANY* TIMES...

I MAY BE A "FATHER," BUT I *WASN'T* DANA'S MOTHER. BUT AS LONG AS I'M LIVING... I'LL LOVE HER FOREVER.

IF THERE'S ANYONE *ELSE* WHO WISHES TO SPEAK... THEY MAY DO SO.

I... WISH *I* HAD THE FATHER'S FAITH TO *CLING* TO. BUT I'VE LOST MINE, I THINK. BECAUSE IF THERE *WAS* A HIGHER POWER...

HE'D HAVE *SAVED* DANA.

SOMEBODY... WOULD HAVE SAVED HER.

AND IF THERE *IS* A GOD, I HOPE DANA BAWLS HIM OUT. BECAUSE IT'S...

IT'S SO *UNFAIR*, LOSING HER. I WANTED TO MAKE HER HAPPY IN THIS LIFE... AND I *COULDN'T*.

OR MAYBE SHE JUST CHOSE THE PEOPLE WHO NEEDED HER THE *MOST*.

I JUST...WISH SHE WERE STILL HERE.

AND GOD, IF YOU'RE *LISTENING*... WATCH YOUR BACK.

I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER *MYSELF*, HONEY.

DANA AND I, WE...UH...ACTUALLY KEPT *COMPETING* WITH EACH OTHER.

SHE KEPT *WINNING*.

AND THEN WE HAD ONE *FINAL* COMPETITION, FOR SURVIVAL... AND YOU'D THINK, SINCE I'M *HERE*...THAT *I* WON.

BUT SHE HAD MORE *CLASS*...MORE NOBILITY THAN I'LL EVER...

I WISH WE'D BEEN FRIENDS.

I'M...I'M SORRY...

POOR XINA. SHE'S LIKE A TRAIN WRECK.

AND I DON'T SEE TYLER ANYWHERE. I WONDER--?

PERHAPS DANA'S *FIANCÉ* WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS...?

I...

EXCUSE ME.

NUTS.

HUNH.

NOW WHY IS THAT WOMAN PUTTING A SPIDER-MAN MASK AT A GRAVESITE...?

WAAITT A MINUTE...

EXCUSE ME...

IS YOUR NAME... LOREEN?

Y...YES. DO I KNOW YOU? DID YOU KNOW KENNY?

WE WERE... ACQUAIN-TANCES.

NONE OF HIS FRIENDS CAME. WITH THE SPIDERITES BEING ENDORSED BY DOOM... AND SPIDER-MAN GOING CORPORATE...

THE MOVEMENT FELL APART. BUT KENNY... HE KEPT BELIEVING.

BELIEVING IN WHAT?

BELIEVING IN SPIDER-MAN MAKING THIS A BETTER WORLD. THAT'S *ALL* KENNY WANTED: A BETTER WORLD.

THAT'S A *LOT* TO EXPECT FROM ONE GUY IN A COSTUME.

KENNY SAID HE BELIEVED IN SPIDER-MAN... AND THE MAN BENEATH THE SUIT. HE EVEN CLAIMED HE'D SEEN SPIDER-MAN'S UNMASKED *FACE*.

THAT HE SAW *IN* THAT FACE... THE *FUTURE* OF THE WORLD. ISN'T THAT *INSANE*?

TOTALLY.

I'M... I'M *SORRY*...YOU'RE A *STRANGER*... AND I...

I HAVE NO ONE *ELSE*. I'M SORRY...

SO AM I.

MORNING, TYLER. MISSED YOU AT THE *FUNERAL.*

I... CHANGED MY MIND. I'M NOT MUCH FOR PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF GRIEF.

SO...THE WATCH *CHANGES.* THANK YOU FOR YOUR *EFFORTS*, MIKE. ARE YOUR THINGS CLEARED OUT?

WEIRD'S GREATEST BRAIN

WELL, THAT'S A BIT OF AN *ISSUE*, TY. THE SYSTEM'S IN *DISARRAY* RIGHT NOW. NO ONE IS SURE WHO'S IN CHARGE OF WHAT. SO UNTIL SOMEONE IS SURE... I'M HANGING AROUND.

MIKE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, I'M *BACK.*

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE *GONE.*

I'M GOING TO RUN ALCHEMAX WITH COMPASSION, DEDICATED TO *HELPING* HUMANITY. HELPING THE *WORLD.*

OH, I *RESCINDED* YOUR EXECUTION ORDER ON KRON, BY THE BY. HE'S SLIME, BUT MURDER'S *NOT* MY STYLE. AND *MY* STYLE IS THE STYLE OF THE DAY.

YOU'RE GETTING IN *WAY* OVER YOUR HEAD, MIKE! YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOING TO USURP *ME?*

ALREADY *HAVE*. SECURITY'S BEEN INFORMED YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR RIGHT MIND. DOCTORS WILL *VERIFY* IT. LORD KNOWS THEY *SHOULD*: I *PAID* THEM ENOUGH.

GOT THE FUNDS FROM YOUR EXPENSE ACCOUNT. I FIGURE YOU WON'T BE *NEEDING* IT.

GOT ANYTHING *ELSE* TO SAY BEFORE YOU'RE ESCORTED OUT?

YOU HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING... WHO YOU'RE *CROSSING*.

EVERYTHING YOU HAVE... EVERYTHING YOU *ARE* IN THIS WORLD YOU GOT FROM ME.

YOU WILL DO *AS* I *TELL* YOU, *WHEN* I *TELL* YOU...

BECAUSE I'M YOUR FATHER.

YEAH, I KNOW.

WH... *WHAT*?

YOU KNOW?

YUP.

NOW GET OUT OF MY OFFICE... *DAD*.

WORLD'S GREATEST BRAIN